

REMARKS

Claims 19 and 42 are amended and claims 20, 43 and 53 are canceled herein. Support for the amendment is found on page 14, lines 15-20. No new matter is presented.

Claims 19-20 and 31-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearmain (U.S. Patent No. 5,188,839) in view of Hoshino (WO 97/12606, English Equivalent, U.S. Patent 6,146,661).

Claims 19 and 42 are amended herein to recite that the oral administration preparation of the invention consists of a drug having at least one basic group in its structure, thereby rendering an unpleasant taste, a sugar alcohol having a heat of dissolution of -20 cal/g or less and a pH adjusting agent wherein the sugar alcohol is erythritol, and wherein the drug having at least one basic group in its structure is selected from the specific drugs recited in the claims, respectively. Thus, the presently amended claims exclude additional ingredients other than those specifically recited in the claims. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify or combine the cited references with a reasonable expectation of success in achieving the claimed invention. Claims 31-42, 44-52 and 54 depend from one of claims 19 and 42 and are distinguished for at least the same reasons, respectively. Claims 20, 43 and 53 are canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot as to these claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/509,677

ATTY DKT Q58580

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

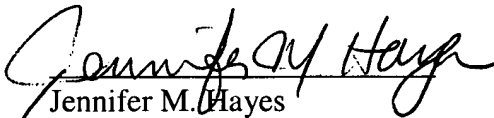
Respectfully submitted,

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